

Approach: One to one
 Focus: Comprehending meaning in poems
 Resources: Audio recording on laptop computer

Year: 4 & 8

Questions / instructions:

This activity uses the computer.

Click the *Little Poems* button.

You are going to listen to some short poems. They are funny little poems with a twist. As you listen, think about what the poem is saying.

Click the *Algy* button.

ALGY
 Algy met a bear;
 The bear met Algy;
 The bear grew bulgy;
 The bulge was Algy.

1. Can you tell me what the poem was saying?

Relates meaning of poem:

<i>(bear got fatter, by eating Algy)</i>	both elements clear	1	11
	one element clear	9	23
	neither element clear	90	67

2. What was the odd or funny twist in what the poem said?

Explanation captured the odd or funny:

somewhat explained	6	16
not explained	94	84

Click the *Grizzly Bear* button.

GRIZZLY BEAR
 If you ever, ever, ever meet a grizzly bear,
 You must never, never, never ask him where
 He is going,
 Or what he is doing;
 For if you ever, ever dare,
 To stop a grizzly bear,
 You will never meet another grizzly bear.

3. Can you tell me what the poem was saying?

Relates meaning of poem:

<i>(avoid staying close to, stopping or talking to a grizzly bear)</i>	both elements clear	7	16
	one element clear	39	51
	neither element clear	53	33

4. What was the odd or funny twist in what the poem said?

Explanation captured the odd or funny:

somewhat explained	17	30
not explained	83	69

Click the *No Room to Swing a Cat!* button.

NO ROOM TO SWING A CAT!
 My hotel room was tiny.
 No room to swing a cat.
 My cat was overjoyed and said
 "Well, thank the Lord for that!"

5. Can you tell me what the poem was saying?

Relates meaning of poem:

<i>(room was too small to swing a cat, so cat was happy)</i>	both elements clear	6	20
	one element clear	41	45
	neither element clear	53	35

6. What was the odd or funny twist in what the poem said?

Explanation captured the odd or funny:

somewhat explained	17	31
not explained	83	69

Click the *Man in the Wilderness* button.

THE MAN IN THE WILDERNESS
 The man in the wilderness said to me,
 "How many strawberries grow in the sea?"
 I answered him as I thought good,
 "As many red herrings as grow in the wood."

7. Red herrings are fish. Can you tell me what the poem was saying?

Relates meaning of poem:

<i>(strawberries growing in sea unlikely, red herrings growing in a wood unlikely)</i>	both elements clear	5	14
	one element clear	15	20
	neither element clear	80	67

8. What was the odd or funny twist in what the poem said?

Explanation captured the odd or funny:

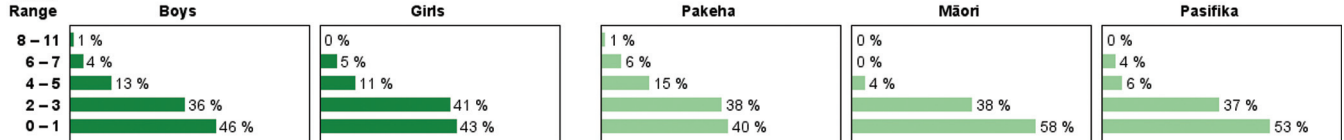
somewhat explained	22	39
not explained	78	61

Total score:	8-11	1	8
	6-7	5	15
	4-5	12	25
	2-3	38	33
	0-1	45	19

Subgroup Analyses:

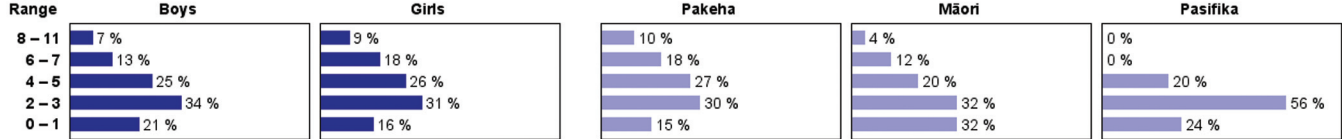
Year 4

Score Range



Year 8

Score Range



Commentary:

This task involving comprehension of metaphorical language was very difficult for both year 4 and year 8 students. Year 8 students did moderately better than year 4 students. At year 8 level, only 20 percent of Pasifika students scored more than three, compared to 55 percent of Pakeha students.